GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2100
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2001
DUES OF WEST BENGAL TOWARD ECL
BASUDEB ACHARIA

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demand raised by the Government of West Bengal from the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) on account of royalty and dead rent for each of the last three years and the amount paid against these demands;

(b) whether there is any shortfall in clearing the aforesaid dues;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action being taken by the Government to clear the dues; and

(e) the total amount due to West Bengal on this count as on September 29, 2001?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) : The details of the demand raised by the Government of West Bengal from the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) on account of royalty and dead rent for each of the last three years and the amount paid against these demands are furnished as under:

(RS. IN LAKHS)

YEAR	DEMAND		AMOUNT PAID	
	ROYALTY	DEAD RENT	ROYALTY	DEAD RENT
1998-99	939.85	33.71	928.81	-
1999-00	979.19	40.64	976.43	-
2000-01	979.19	40.47	976.67	-
TOTAL	2898.23	114.82	2881.91	-

(b)&(c): In case of royalty, there are differences between assessed dues and return dues because of

- Imposition of royalty on stock shortage in assessment order.

- Disallowance of basic exemption on free issue of coal to those employees, who are drawing coal from mines other than those in which they are working, within the same Area.

All dues as per the return has been paid in time. Difference between assessed dues and return dues amounting to Rs. 16.32 lakhs, has not been paid as the same is under dispute.

In case of dead rent, the total amount of Rs. 114.82 lakhs has not been paid since it is under sub-judice before the Hon'ble High court, Kolkata and the respective Certificate Officers of the district.

(d) : Section 9(1) of the MMDR Act 1957 requiresthe holder of a mining lease or his agent, manager, employee, contractor or sub lessee to pay royalty in respect of any mineral removed or consumed from the leased area at the rates specified in the Second Schedule of the Act. Royalty on coal is payable to the concerned State Government who is the lessor by the coal company. Neither the

State Government nor the coal company has represented in respect of the aforesaid dues to the Central Government for taking necessary steps.

(e): The cumulative amount due upto June,2001 is Rs. 4.68 crores on account of royalty and Rs.3.255 crores on account of dead rent. However, these claims are being disputed by the coal company.